(ii) In view of the depleting reserve of present mining block at Meghataburu the adjacent Central block deposit is being developed to process 5 MT (ROM) by 2008-09.

(iii) Taldih block within Barsua-Kalta-Taldih lease hold has been planned to be developed to a mechanized mine 4.25 MTPA (ROM) capacity with beneficiation facility by 2011-12.

(iv) The reserved area within the Thakurani-A block in Keonjhar district of Orissa shall be developed into a mechanized mine by 2009-10.

(v) Process for development of Rowghat iron ore mine in the State of Chhattisgarh ana Chiria (Manoharpur) in the state of Jharkhand has been initiated.

. The development of these blocks would depend upon grant of forest clearance, environment clearance and renewal/grant of leases.

Coal Mine

(i) Tasra coking coal block in Jharkhand.

(ii) Chasnalla & Jitpur Collieries-deep Mine-9 Seam & 10/11 Seam, upper Seam 3rd Horizon.

(iii) Jitpur Colliery-12 Seam

(iv) Ramnagore Coliery-At Laikdih Ramnagore Seam Quary, Scientific exploitation is being carried out.

Reduction in steel production by producers

† 1328. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the big steel producers had reduced the quantum of steel production during the last years in order to check the declining prices of the product on the basis of demand and supply of steel in the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cost of production is brought down by increasing the production in the industry and the common consumer as well as the producer are benefited thereby; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) No Sir. The major steel companies have not reduced the quantum of steel production in the last few years. The production of five major steel producers has been given below:—

Name of Company	Product	in Million Tonnes			As%age of 2003-04		
		2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
SAIL	Saleable Steel	12.000	11.030	11.026	108.8	100.0	100.0
RINL	Saleable Steel	3.237	3.173	3.169	102.14	100.12	100.0
TISCO	Saleable Steel	4.551	4.074	4.076	111.7	100.0	100.0
Ispat	Hot Rolled Steel	2.144	1.963	1.614	132.8	121.6	100.0
JVSL	Hot Rolled Steel	2.148	1.783	1.573	136.6	113.4	100.0
Essar Steel	Hot Rolled Steel	2.577	2.324	1.930	133.5	120.4	100.0

There was a marginal drop in the production of TISCO in 2004-05 over 2003-04 because the company had shut down their major blast furnace to renovate the same to a higher capacity.

(c) and (d) As a general principle, higher production would lead to lowering of fixed costs per unit of output up to a certain level of production. However, in an open market scenario, steel prices are market driven. Cost reduction measures are taken up by steel companies as an ongoing process so as to increase productivity. This helps both the producers as well the consumers. The steel plants under Ministry of Steel are already working beyond their rated capacity.